

LIMITED EDITION LICENSE PLATE TO HELP FUND IDAHO STATE CAPITOL RESTORATION NOW AVAILABLE

Editor's Note: Digital versions of the Capitol restoration license plate are available by contacting Jeremy Chase at es/drake, 208-342-0925. Please specify what file type you need.

Special limited edition license plates that will generate funds to help pay for the Idaho State Capitol restoration are now available to Gem State motorists.

The Capitol restoration license plate has a unique design and is rich in symbolism. It features a graphic of the Idaho State Capitol dome, the most prominent aspect of the building. The license plate also includes a procession of stars that, like the 43 located on the interior ceiling of the dome, represent Idaho's statehood, as well as birds that signify Idaho's official bird, the mountain bluebird.

"The events of the last six months have vividly reminded all of us of how fortunate we are to live in a country with a representative system of government," said Roy Eiguren, Chairman of the Idaho Capitol Commission. "The Capitol restoration license plate provides a great way for Idahoans to demonstrate their support for efforts to preserve our state's most visible symbol of democracy."

The Capitol restoration license plate will only be sold and renewed for five years. **Sales will start on March 11, 2002** and both sales and renewals will end in December 2006. The Capitol restoration license plate will be the only license plate that will be available for just a limited period of time.

The Capitol restoration license plates, which can be personalized, may be displayed on passenger vehicles and light trucks up to 26,000 pounds maximum gross vehicle weight. Sample Capitol restoration license plates, which can also be personalized and make great gifts for family and friends, will also be sold.

Program fees of \$35 for initial sales, and \$25.00 for renewals, will be charged for the Capitol restoration license plates, in addition to other required annual registration and license plate fees. All but \$10.00 of the program fees will be used to pay for the Idaho State Capitol restoration. The remaining \$10.00 will be deposited in the state highway account. Capitol restoration license plates, with the exception of personalized and sample plates, should be available at all county motor vehicle departments. Personalized and sample plates will be available only through the Idaho Transportation Department. To

contact the Idaho Transportation Department, call (208) 334-8649 or visit their website at www2.state.id.us/itd/dmv/vs.htm.

The Idaho State Capitol restoration, which was originally estimated to cost \$64 million, is being financed through a combination of license plate sales, appropriations from the Idaho Legislature, proceeds from state endowment lands, and private contributions. Restoration of the Idaho State Capitol, which will be done in two phases, began last July. The first phase, which involves re-grouting the exterior sandstone facing on the building, spot cleaning of the exterior, and replacement of the east and west steps is currently underway and will be completed this spring. Phase two, which will focus on the inside of the Idaho State Capitol and was scheduled to begin in spring 2003, has been put on hold due to the shortfall in projected state tax revenues. However, project planning and design work will continue and funds generated by sales of the Capitol restoration license plate will be used to help pay for it.

“From the start, contributions from Idahoans, through license plate sales and direct donations, have been considered a vital part of the funding of the Idaho State Capitol restoration and they are even more important now,” said Eiguren. “We encourage all Idahoans who believe in what the Idaho State Capitol represents to help us ensure that we can continue to use it for another 100 years.”

For more information about the Capitol restoration license plate, and the Idaho State Capitol restoration project, visit the Idaho Capitol Commission website at www.idahostatecapitol.org. To donate to the Idaho State Capitol restoration, contact the Idaho Community Foundation at (208) 342-3535 or (800) 657-5357.

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